



As educators, you might be saying, "What does all the activity at the state and federal level mean to me?" Right now, in an especially challenged global economy, the federal stimulus might mean we have few educational layoffs. Each local school district will see federal funding increase in Title funding and in special education reimbursement. And, schools may see funding for things like educational technology and improved technology infrastructure. More children will have early childhood education experiences and, in large way, education will have been spared again by being a funding priority.

The Michigan education picture is helped significantly by the stimulus. At this point, the state projects a \$164 million shortfall in the state school aid fund. The governor proposed a \$59 reduction in the per pupil foundation grant, and several state categoricals are slated for reduction, including a 20% cut in general funding for intermediate school districts. We anticipate the governor will utilize stimulus money to offset state cuts for the coming 2009-10 school year. Since the stimulus actually comes over an extended period of time, it will also help the 2010-11 school year funding for Michigan schools.

With all of this help, the state is still projecting to lose more than 25,000 students per year. State revenues come from a mix of taxes with property and sales tax making up the majority of revenue. In a troubled economy and with costs continuing to rise, revenue probably won't keep pace with expenditures. The state income tax was raised back

to early Engler administration levels on a temporary basis. The income tax is slated to roll back after 2010. With health care costs continuing to rise, state infrastructure problems, and the state economy lagging along with the automakers and suppliers, the state has a structural problem that has remained unaddressed.

What can we do given the state of the state? Your local superintendents have been meeting with legislators on an increasingly frequent basis. We really have limited local control and we want to impact state control. Changes in areas such as Michigan Merit Curriculum, the Michigan School Retirement System, and in Early

Childhood Education have begun. The state superintendent has called for "total consolidation of administrative services" with the idea of keeping instructional services locally based. The bottom line is that we all need to be more involved in providing meaningful input to our elected officials by weighing in on issues which will impact us. Representatives Joel Sheltrown (D), Darwin Booher (R), and Senator Michelle McManus (R) should really know what we think, as increasingly, education has become a state issue. If you are uncomfortable contacting them, contact your local superintendent if you have a position on an education topic. Talking with legislators has become a regular required activity for your local education leader.

Please call Scott Crosby at (231) 876-2260 or email at scrosby@wmisd.org with thoughts or questions related to our services.

The Federal Stimulus Will Help

But, Michigan still has more to do.

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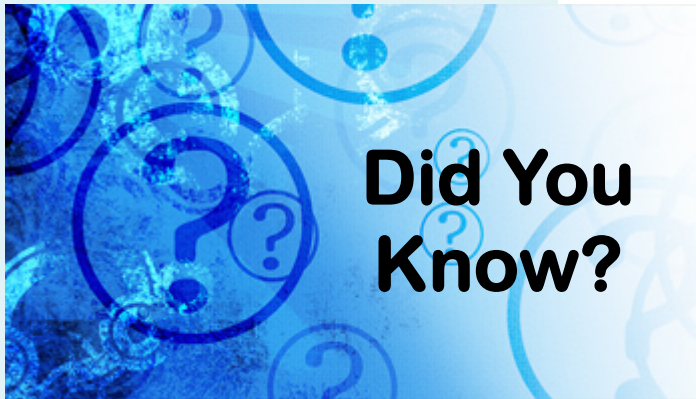
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Focus on the Future is a monthly publication of the WMISD.
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- When the voters approved that last special education millage vote in 1992, 0.5 mills was promised the local school districts to help support the added costs of special education. This has averaged out to be an average of \$1.1 million per year over the past three (3) years.

CTC Student Forum Representatives helped the pre-school students make a Valentine's Day project



- The WMISD Special Education Department reimburses local school districts for the unreimbursed costs of preschool transportation, Interpreters for Hearing Impaired children, Teacher Assistants for Visually Impaired children, rent for WMISD classrooms in local school district buildings, tuition and transportation for students attending the Michigan School for the Deaf, etc.
- The WMISD Special Education Department's formula for paying local school districts calls for fully funding WMISD Special Education operated programs first, before local school districts receive reimbursements.
- If WMISD Special Education expenses exceed available revenue, local school districts will be reimbursing the ISD for the costs of the Special Education services that they use.

Hearing Impaired & Audiologist Teacher Consultants Team Up

In previous years, Christina Abramowski (Teacher Consultant of the Hearing Impaired) and Dr. Sharon Blackburn of Audiological Services of Cadillac have traveled from school to school distributing and explaining the equipment that our students with hearing impairments use to help them learn. This previously happened the first day or two of school each year, which was not the best time to do this (since it caused disruptions in the classroom).

After surveying teachers, it was determined that the best time to do this, without interrupting instruction, was before school started in the fall. Mrs. Abramowski and Mrs. Blackburn will be making themselves available prior to school starting in the fall to:

- Explain the needs of students with Hearing Impairments
- How the equipment in their classroom will assist the student
- How the equipment works.

Letters were sent out this month inviting teachers to set up visitation times. Contact Christina Abramowski at cabramowski@wmisd.org to set up a time.

Great Start Collaborative Grant

The Wexford-Missaukee Intermediate School District has recently been awarded a Great Start Collaborative grant from the Early Childhood Investment Corporation. The Early Childhood Investment Corporation is a public-private partnership which is working across the state to bring attention and local leadership to the issue of early childhood care and education.

The purpose of the grant is to bring together all stakeholders to assure a coordinated system of community resources and offer support to families to provide a great start for their children from birth to age five. The goals of the grant are to:

- Collect data about our current system
- Develop a strategic plan to move us toward a comprehensive and coordinated system of services for families with children birth to 5 years
- Establish a Parent Coalition that will support parents to advocate for the needs of their young children; and
- Identify gaps in services.

Although the WMISD is the grantee and fiscal agent for the grant, the focus goes well beyond the already established goal of our superintendents to provide the opportunity for all 4-year olds to have a high quality preschool classroom experience. We know that in order for our children to succeed in school and in life we must attend to the whole child. Therefore, the work of the Great Start Collaborative encompasses five areas:

- Basic Needs, Economic Security & Child Safety
- Early Care & Education
- Parent Education & Family Support
- Physical Health Care; and
- Social-Emotional Health Care

Through such a comprehensive approach we know that children will be better prepared for Kindergarten. Several long-term research studies have also documented that children who receive high quality care and education as infants, toddlers and preschoolers will be:

1. Less likely to need special education
2. Have higher achievement scores as middle-schoolers
3. More likely to delay childbearing
4. More likely to go on to college
5. More likely to graduate; and
6. More successful and productive as adults

The participation of parents in the community planning process funded through this grant will help assure that the action plan produced through our collective efforts will be realistic and achievable.

Teachers can help by sending information about the Parent Coalition to the parents of all your students. If you have a child under the age of 12 years, you may want to join our Parent Coalition. This group will meet in various locations throughout our service area, usually in the evening with child care and a meal provided. This group will assure that the parent perspective is considered in all aspects of planning and assist the Collaborative in communicating our message to the community, local, state and federal decision makers.

Even if parents cannot attend meetings, they may want to consider joining our e-mail list to be informed of community forums or special events for families. Or, if you can attend day-time meetings, you may choose to join our Early Childhood workgroup which will be taking responsibility for the actual work of the grant. If you are interested please call Coordinators Mike Acosta or Liz Walker at 231.876.2265, or Rachel Rogers, Parent Liaison at 231.839.8500.





4th Annual Careers for Women



Over 100 girls from five local high schools attended the 4th Annual Careers for Women Conference on February 4, 2009 at the Wexford-Missaukee CTC. Eleven professional women from a variety of careers spoke to the girls.



DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America)


CTC's Hospitality, Retailing and Entrepreneurship Students Will Compete at the State Leadership Conference

Jessica Cieslak (Cadillac HS), Holly Smith (Manton HS), and Kelsie Zubor (Lake City HS) will be competing in the Community Service Project event at the State Leadership Conference and Competition on March 13-15, 2009 in Dearborn, Michigan.

Nikki Pickel (Cadillac HS) will also be competing in the Entrepreneurship Written Event category. She will be presenting a paper written about her jewelry business, "Diamonds in the Rough."

Betsi Garlets (Cadillac HS) will be competing in the Restaurant and Food Service Management category at the state conference.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY



MDOT

WMISD Staff and Students have adopted a portion of the US 131 Highway. The clean-up will be in April and September every year.



Two students from the Power Sports and Equipment program at the Wexford-Missaukee Career Technical Center have become certified technicians for Kawasaki Power Equipment. Kyle Koon (Cadillac HS) and Philip George (McBain HS) attended the 2009 Factory Update School in Grand Rapids on January 7, 2009 and successfully completed the testing requirements. As certified technicians, they can repair and maintain all Kawasaki Power Equipment.

Three local preschool programs funded through the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) Grant from the Michigan Department of Education (formerly MSRP) have joined forces to form a consortium and submit one local collaborative grant.



For more information, contact Liz Walker at 231-876-3374 or lwalker@wmisd.org.

Manton, Pine River, and Cadillac GSRP programs are writing their grants collaboratively this year. With support from Wexford-Missaukee Intermediate School District, Early Childhood Specialist, Liz Walker, and the three local districts worked on collaborative goals and processes.

We will have our district wide “Preschool Advisory Council” meetings at the WMISD General Education Building. We invite all local agencies that work with young children to be a part of the advisory process. As a collaborative group these three local preschools will work together to support the following goals:

Our Child Development Goal from Creative Curriculum:

- Comprehend and interpret meaning from books and other texts.
- Imitates act of reading in play.
- Compares and predicts story events; acts out main events of a familiar story.
- Retells a story including many details and draws connections between story events.

WMISD Area Great Start Readiness Programs Collaborate

Our Parent Involvement Goal:

- Staff and parents will exchange information about how to promote and extend children’s learning and social development at home.
- Staff will send home newsletters to parents to support and extend children’s learning.
- Follow up on information with parents at conferences and home visits on learning objectives.
- Parents will be invited to join the parent advisory council and local Great Start Collaborative Parent Coalition.

Our Program Quality Goal:

The program has a time each day for small group activities that reflect and extend children’s interests and development.

1. Staff will make sure that there is always daily time set aside for small group activities.
2. Staff will plan appropriate small group activities to support student learning in relation to the Creative Curriculum Progress Checkpoints.
3. Teachers will begin to use the CC.net reporting tools to plan and implement small group activities that align with specific student needs.
4. Teachers will begin to allow children to contribute their own ideas and participate at their own developmental levels during small group time.

The local buildings with the support from WMISD, Early Reading First, NMCAA and NEMSCA will be implementing the goals at their preschool advisory council meetings.



WMISD Wellness

Your Health is the Point



In October of 2007 we started what would become an ongoing wellness program for the staff at WMISD. Our first effort was called “Your Health is the Point” where staff earned points for healthy behaviors. The program has progressed to include Weight Watchers at Work, health screening for weight, cholesterol and blood pressure for all staff at the beginning of the school year and many other health challenge programs. Currently we are offering: Weight Watchers at

Work, WMISD Biggest Loser/ Achiever and One Year to an Organized Life.

Our goal is to keep our healthy staff healthy and to encourage our not so healthy staff to adopt healthier lifestyles. We also hope to see reductions in the cost of health insurance and the number of sick days used. Just a few of the benefits we have realized thus far include: a total of 459 lbs lost in our first Weight Watchers at Work program, an increase in staff activity levels, camaraderie between staff who participate and staff becoming more aware of the lifestyle choices they make.

We are planning a program that would reward participants throughout the year by letting them earn points for many

different types of Wellness activities such as volunteering in the community, participating in community Wellness challenges, preventative medical screenings, quitting smoking and many more. Our hope is that our staff members will not only strive for healthy behaviors during a 10-week program but continue those behaviors for the entire year. We have had a tremendous amount of positive feedback from the staff and plan to continue these programs



*For more information, contact
Elizabeth Eastway at 231-876-2278 or
eeastway@wmisd.org or
Colleen Metiva at 231-876-2328 or
cmetiva@wmisd.org*

HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) Regional Conference Competition—February 5, 2009

1st Place—Gold Medals

Kala Bongard (Lake City), Nora Kress (Lake City), and Ashlie Southwick (Cadillac) - [Creative Problem Solving](#)

Chelsea Glasgow (Manton), Denae Smith (McBain), Norma Sprague (Lake City), and Fred West (Lake City) - [HOSA Bowl](#)

Alex Helsel (Lake City) - [Dental Spelling](#)

Tina Richardson (Cadillac) - [Medical Spelling](#)

Amanda Marcotte (Cadillac) - [Knowledge Test – Human Growth and Development](#)

2nd Place—Silver Medals

Monika Wessel (Marion) - [Extemporaneous Poster](#)

Katie Taylor (Cadillac) - [Extemporaneous Speaking](#)

Amy Jarvis (Cadillac) - [Nurse Assisting](#)

Jennifer Hartley (Lake City), Mindy Jones (Mesick), and Sierra Lyon (Mesick), - [Medical Reading](#)

Courtney Dassance (Mesick) and Amber Wittkopp (Pine River) - [Forensic Medicine](#)

3rd Place—Bronze Medals

Chelsea Starkey (Cadillac) - [Medical Terminology](#)

Jerome Jones (Marion) - [Medical Math](#)

Erica Gamble (Cadillac) - [Human Growth and Development](#)

Erika Duddles (Pine River) - [Veterinary Assisting](#)

Angela Collins (Cadillac) - [Extemporaneous Writing](#)

Kari Jonas (Manton) and Catrina Comstock (Cadillac) - [Forensic Medicine](#)





John Stanhope
(Lake City HS, Heavy Equipment Mechanics) works at Missaukee County Road Commission

Co-op Students of the Month

Mary Metzger (Cadillac HS, Allied Health) works at Lakeview Lutheran Manor



CTC Student Forum Representatives visited Lakeview Lutheran Manor on February 12, 2009 to play games with the residents and pass out Valentine's Day Cards.



Outstanding CTC Students of the Quarter



Back Row from Left to Right: Matt McGiness (Agriscience, Lake City), Sam Federoff (Metal Fabrication, Pine River), Tyler Westrick (Building Trades, Cadillac), David Zitka (Hospitality Retailing & Entrepreneurship, Pine River), Darik Adams (Power Sports and Equipment, Pine River), and Terry Eising Jr. (Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Lake City)

Front Row from Left to Right: Andrew Reed (Machine Trades, Pine River), Antonio Strange (Computers & Electronics, Manton), Lindsay Nelson (Allied Health Technology, Pine River), Tanya Cedarburg (Cosmetology, Mesick), and Tyeler Ault (Electrical Occupations, Cadillac)

(Not Pictured): Shelby Gardner (Business Management & Administration, Cadillac)

Back Row from Left to Right: Mike Dewey (Machine Trades, Marion), Dolph Williamson (Electrical Occupations, Cadillac), Korey Blakely (Computers & Electronics, Pine River), and Robert Buttis (Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Lake City)

Front Row from Left to Right: Jennifer Nowland (Allied Health Technology, Marion), Gordon Sherburne (Business Management & Administration, Mesick), Britney Kulik (Cosmetology, Cadillac), Dillon Ashmore (Building Trades, McBain), and Phillip George (Power Sports and Equipment, McBain)

(Not Pictured): Lacie Clay (Hospitality Retailing & Entrepreneurship, Manton), Brennan Allen (Metal Fabrication, Manton), and Lorraine Elliott (Agriscience, Cadillac)





What is REMC? (Regional Educational Media Center)

- REMC 2 South provides instructional materials and support services to public and non-public K-12 schools.
- REMC 2 South, located at Wexford-Missaukee Intermediate School District, is the main center for the LEA's within Wexford-Missaukee, Mecosta-Osceola & Mason-Lake Intermediate School Districts.

As a REMC 2 South partner you have access to:

- 400+ AIMS and Audio Books
 - 500+ DVD Videos
 - 800+ Book sets
 - 850+ Ellison Die shapes
- 4,000+ Educational & Professional Videos
- 6,000+ Digital Content Items (Video Streamed Titles)
- Teacher Workroom with Ellison Dies & Presses, Laminators, Button Maker, supplies, etc.



National Collaboration —National Association of Media & Technology Centers (NAMTC), Scholastic

REMC 2 South Staff

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Location

9905 E. 13th Street
Cadillac, MI 49601
www.wmisd.org

Please contact the staff at
REMC 2 South with
questions or for help
accessing resources.

WMISD Mission Statement

The mission of the Wexford-Missaukee Intermediate School District is to provide high quality educational and support services requested by its constituent local districts whereby each district can more effectively meet the educational needs of its students and citizens.

WMISD Board of Education

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Intermediate School District

Wexford-Missaukee

